

May 4, 2012

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium e-Alert

Connecticut State Department of Education

Bureau of Student Assessment

Technology Requirements

Smarter Balanced is working with member states to develop comprehensive minimum technology requirements detailing bandwidth, hardware, and operating system specifications for devices eligible to administer the assessments beginning in the 2014-15 school year. These guidelines will be informed by the results of the [Technology Readiness Tool](#) and are expected to be released in August 2012.

To assist schools and districts when making instructional technology purchases over the next two years, Smarter Balanced has developed new hardware purchasing guidelines. These hardware and operating system guidelines are intended to inform purchasing decisions to ensure that new devices are compatible with the Smarter Balanced assessment system in 2014-15.

- [Hardware Purchasing Guidelines \(pdf\)](#)
- [Hardware Purchasing Guidelines FAQs \(pdf\)](#)



Automated Software Scoring

[Man vs. Computer: Who Wins the Essay-Scoring Challenge?](#) was published in *Education Week* on April 12, 2012. Smarter Balanced has considered using automated scoring to score student responses. This article explores the advantages of automated scoring.

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Contact the Student Assessment Office at 860-713-6860 or 860-713-6890 with questions.
[Connecticut's Smarter Balanced Web site](#)

